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ULTIMATUM OF THE EMPLOYEES.

PRESIDENT WILSON, who has failed to find an "overt act" in any violation of the rule of international law in sinking American ships and ships with Americans aboard, can now direct his energies into a new channel with the object of saying whether or not the "overt act" has not been committed at home by plain, everyday American citizens. This consists of the defiance hurled in the teeth of the administration by the brotherhood chiefs in declaring a general strike calculated to dislocate every American industry worse than the experience of five years war. The brotherhood chiefs have displayed an arrogance that is not compatible with their protestations of patriotism and their oft renewed assertions that in the event of war they will call off the strike and return to their posts as though nothing had ever happened to disrupt the cordial relations that existed between them and their employers for the past eight or ten years. The strike order is a sinister movement, just as hostile as though Germany had boldly seized our manufacturers in the mailed hand of the devastating conqueror. The treatment should be of the same character meted out to any enemy that attempts to overthrow our industrial supremacy. There should not be any dilly dallying or shilly shallying about the application of methods. When the strike was first suggested the president declared that he would not tolerate any interference with the railroad traffic of the country that would cause hardship and bring suffering and distress to the doors of the people. This threat was deferred through reconsideration by the brotherhoods which decided that the popular mind was not in shape to stand for the drastic punishment the brotherhood chiefs had prescribed. Now that the same men have challenged the authority of the government to interfere with their plans, it remains to be seen if the president has the manhood and resolution to do what he said he would do when the provocation was not nearly so great as it is today. Six months ago it was hinted that the president, acting as commander in chief of the armies of the United States, had arranged to move trains with military force. If the incentive at that time was deemed sufficient there is still greater necessity for a display of firmness today when every nerve is strained for the purpose of safeguarding against invasion from a remorseless enemy. Only yesterday the navy department awarded contracts for quick construction of warships valued at \$136,000,000. The orders were placed with the understanding that the successful bidders would work overtime and utilize every possible resource and device to comply with the urgent requirements of the hour. The strike order virtually cancels these contracts. Without transportation facilities steel cannot be moved from the mills and foundries and the material manufactured at a dozen widely separated points cannot be assembled without the free and untrammelled use of the railroads from coast to coast. The tentative order for the enlisting of an army of half a million men cannot be executed while the means of transporting the recruits is in the hands of a contumacious element intent on enriching itself at the expense of the nation. The situation can be grasped by the president with a single stroke of the pen in declaring martial law and placing every form of transportation in the hands of the government. This policy is about the only policy that will curb the insatiable greed of the men who have taken the country by the throat with the object of forcing a settlement right or wrong. Therefore, the question of the hour is "will the president exercise his prerogatives by acting boldly and skillfully or will he try some more of his temporizing and leave the public in disquietude and distress pending an absolute termination of the dispute?"

The strike order is nothing more than a tyrannical step taken for the purpose of overriding the United States courts and coercing the authorities into admitting that might is right. If the American people stand for this action their supineness should be carried a step further by at once extending a welcome to the avowed enemy and turning the administration of our affairs over to an autocrat who has never had his will disputed. Give the country to the kaiser rather than temporize with a treacherous neighbor who has no better idea of patriotism than to intensify the responsibilities that crowd the life of the administration.

THE CALL FOR SHIPS.

ENGLISH authorities on naval affairs have concluded that the British navy was over-insured in capital ships and under-insured in others, which, as it has turned out, have had most of the work in this war. Light cruisers, fast torpedo boats and destroyers and fast motor boats and trawlers have borne the brunt of the fight against German submarines and raiders. The British admiralty has built too many battleships and large armored cruisers, and is now at its wit's end to provide small, swift craft to fight submarines and guard the steamship lane. The admiralty wasted valuable time and is still experimenting, but the big capital ships have been of no service in protecting merchant ships against submarine attacks. Naval officers prefer big warships because they are comfortable. They argue that the best defense is attack and the idea of building merchant ships and small motor boats does not appeal to them.

In this war the big battleships have been of little service. The British have not been able to get near German ports and coasts because guns ashore and submarines in the sea have proved invulnerable defenses. The attempt to force the passage of the Dardanelles failed miserably because old nine-inch guns ashore were too much for battleships mounting 15-inch guns. The British Isles are not in danger of invasion, but they are in some danger of starvation. The British admiralty has not succeeded in dealing effectively with submarines, and England has more to fear from them than from Germany's armies and battle fleets.

If the United States is to rush preparation for war, the experience of England teaches us that there is no need for crowding ship yards with capital ships that cannot be finished in two years. What we need is what England needs, more merchant vessels and small, swift craft to fight submarines. In addition to these we require submarines and airplanes for coast defense. We know what they have done for Germany.

German submarines are not sinking merchant ships as fast as they can be replaced. If we are involved in war against Germany the problem of dealing with submarines far from their home bases will be simplified, but a shortage of merchant ships exists today and our export trade is handicapped by this condition. We know that the leading merchants of England are crying for more ships and are urging their government not to devote shipyards and skilled labor to building battleships of which the country has more than it can use, while trade is crippled and starvation is threatened by lack of merchant ships and a mosquito fleet to protect them when passing through the barred zone. If we cannot do everything, let us do what we must.

PASSING OF THE ROMANOFFS.

RUSSIA has risen in her might and thrown aside the sanctity that is supposed to invest her insolent rulers. The result will not be of any advantage to Germany since it has been clearly shown several times since the beginning of hostilities that the reigning family was entirely too friendly with the Hohenzollerns to make a better showing than has been made. The people are against the Czar and his advisers who are suspected of taking their orders from Berlin, and the triumph of the duma implies a victory for the people and the substitution of an aggressive popular government for satrapy that has blundered aimlessly through the war sacrificing its magnificent manhood without scoring any material gains. This is another illustration of the masses rising in mutiny against the pacifist element that has been steering the government by diplomacy instead of by cannon. The revolt is another exhibition of what has taken place in England, France and Italy, where the diplomats were relegated to the discard and the armies and navies placed under direction of men competent to vindicate the honor of the nation in the face of an unscrupulous foe which was assiduously working and plotting under the cloak of friendship.

When England seized American mails aboard a ship flying the American flag at Halifax it invited a severance of all diplomatic relations which would have brought about an embargo on shipments of munitions. But the administration was afraid to do this.

The wheat crop of Canada will not be left to the grafting grain gamblers to do with as they please. Britain has taken over the entire crop, which will be distributed at cost to the subjects of that nation instead of being permitted to percolate in small quantities through the medium of speculative sharks.

Sweden resents the interference and bullying tactics of Great Britain and the friction manifested by recent demands is causing that nation, with the other Scandinavian allies to seriously meditate on the expediency of coming out openly in alliance with the German empire. The United States is about the only neutral nation that wallows in the mire at the feet of John Bull by permitting him to define our rights at sea and ashore.

BLIND MAY READ PRINT BY USE OF SILENIUM

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Mar. 16.—At the Roentgen Ray Society's February meeting Professor Fournier d'Albe demonstrated an instrument whereby with practice, blind persons are enabled to read ordinary print by sound. The instrument depends upon an application of selenium, and is a development of an instrument which Professor d'Albe used four years ago to enable sightless persons to locate bright lights or brightly luminous patches by means of the ear and to discover shadows intercepting the light. In this case, the light shining upon the selenium arms of the machine caused certain interruptions or changes in the electric current passing through them, which were translated into sound by means of a telephonic contrivance. The later apparatus is a more delicate adaptation of the same idea.

A small, revolving perforated disk is illuminated by a half-watt lamp, and the image of a line of luminous dots, furnished by the revolving disk, is projected upon the type to be read. The light thus reflected from the type is passed to a set of selenium bridges connected by a telephone relay, and sound corresponding to the various letters of the type are carried to the receiver. Each letter of the printed matter, as it passes over the small aperture in the slab gives a different sound effect from any other letter, and with practice a blind person can recognize these distinctive sounds. This sound alphabet of course, has to be learned, but with practice, the line of type can be moved across the aperture at the rate of several words a minute and the sense becomes intelligible to the reader, or hearer.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION WILL MEET NEXT MONTH IN CRESCENT CITY

(By Associated Press.)

NEW ORLEANS, Mar. 16.—Problems of public health, civics, sociology, civil service and conservation will be discussed during the council meeting of the general federation of women's clubs, which will be held here April 9 to 13, inclusive. Plans for entertaining 2000 delegates have been perfected by local committees. The president of the federation, Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, of Los Angeles, and nearly all of the 50 directors of the organization have announced they will attend.

According to the tentative program just announced, the first day's session will be devoted, aside from the annual address of the president, to routine business. During the second day there will be general discussion of problems of the organization.

Wednesday, April 11, Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, of Chicago, will lead a discussion on "What are the Educational Needs of this Country?" Civics, home economics and public health and their relation to each other will be discussed by Mrs. Beattie Leach Priddy, of Ypsilanti, Mich.; Mrs. Joseph C. Gawler, of Denver, and Mrs. Elmer Blair, of Albany, N. Y.

Mrs. John Dickinson Sherman, of Chicago, during the morning of April 12 will lead a discussion on "Conservation, the Greatest Problem," and Mrs. John R. Webb, of Glenn Ridge, N. J., and Miss Mary Wood, of Albany, N. Y., will discuss the question "Are Civil Service Reforms and Industrial and Social Conditions Legislative Concerns?" During the afternoon, "Art, Literature and Music" will be the subjects of addresses delivered by Mrs. Cyrus E. Perkins, of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Mrs. True Worthy White, of Arlington Heights, Ill., and Mrs. W. D. Steele, of Sedalia, Mo.

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